

ORIG: GACarver, Jr.
UNIT: DCI/SAVA
EXT:
DATE: 13 Jan. 1968

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000500090097-8

MESSAGE FORM

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO: PRIORITY SAIGON

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PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. HABIB (WHO NOW VISITING SAIGON) FROM MR. CARVER. OBVIOUSLY ANY STATION THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

1. CONCERN RAPIDLY MOUNTING HERE OVER WHAT WE SEE AS DISQUIETING AIR OF MALAISE AND LASSITUDE PERMEATING GVN. OPPORTUNITY FOR QUOTE NEW BROOM UNQUOTE ATMOSPHERE CAPITALIZING ON AND ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ EXTENDING MOMENTUM INITIATED BY ELECTORAL PROCESS AND NEW GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION APPEARS ABOUT TO BE FRITTERED AWAY WHILE LEGISLATURE WRANGLES ON INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND THIEU TEMPORIZES OR PROCRASTINATES ON IMPORTANT DECISIONS. THE THANG AFFAIR IN PARTICULAR STRIKES US AS HAVING A SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE MUCH GREATER THAN ITS ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ^{INTRINSIC} IMPORTANCE, WHICH IN ITSELF IS CONSIDERABLE.

2. THE INTERRELATED MATTERS OF PROVINCE CHIEF SELECTION

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

to [AND TRAINING, THE PROVINCE CHIEFS RELATIONS TO THE CORPS
COMMANDERS AND THE CONCRETE ISSUE OF THE TIMING, CONTENT AND
LOCALE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S TRAINING COURSE (I. E., THE SUBSTANCE
AND IMPLICATIONS [] CONSTITUTE THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF
OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN. IN SHORT, WE ARE INCLINED TO READ THE
THANG RESIGNATION ISSUE AS A TEST CASE WHOSE OUTCOME WILL INDICATE
WHETHER OR NOT THE QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE GVN HAS EITHER THE
INCLINATION OR THE ABILITY TO ALTER THE STATUS QUO AND GALVANIZE
VIETNAMESE POLITICAL LIFE IN A MANNER CAPABLE OF ENGAGING THE
SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL AND RURAL POPULATION.

3. THE ABOVE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND ARE
VERY MUCH SHARED BY BURKE, ISHAM AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE
DEPARTMENT, WHO ALSO SHARE OUR SENSE OF URGENCY. WE WANT TO
AVOID SENDING THE STATION OR THE MISSION ANY UNNECESSARY OR
GRATUITOUS COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR ADVICE BUT WE DO WANT TO
GENERATE ANY WASHINGTON ACTION THAT IS NEEDED OR COULD BE
HELPFUL. AS A FAVOR TO US ALL THEREFORE, WOULD YOU PLEASE

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO [REVIEW THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE
STATION AND YOURS IN THE EMBASSY (IF INDEED YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY
DONE SO) AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER YOUR RETURN.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

C/VNO

25X1

25X1

5
4
3
2
1
WILLIAM E. COLBY
C/FE

GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.
SAVA

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